

City of Manchester American Rescue Plan Act Funding Recommendations

This document provides an overview of recommended uses of American Rescue Plan funds with the goal of rebuilding a stronger and more equitable economy as the country, state and our city recovers from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

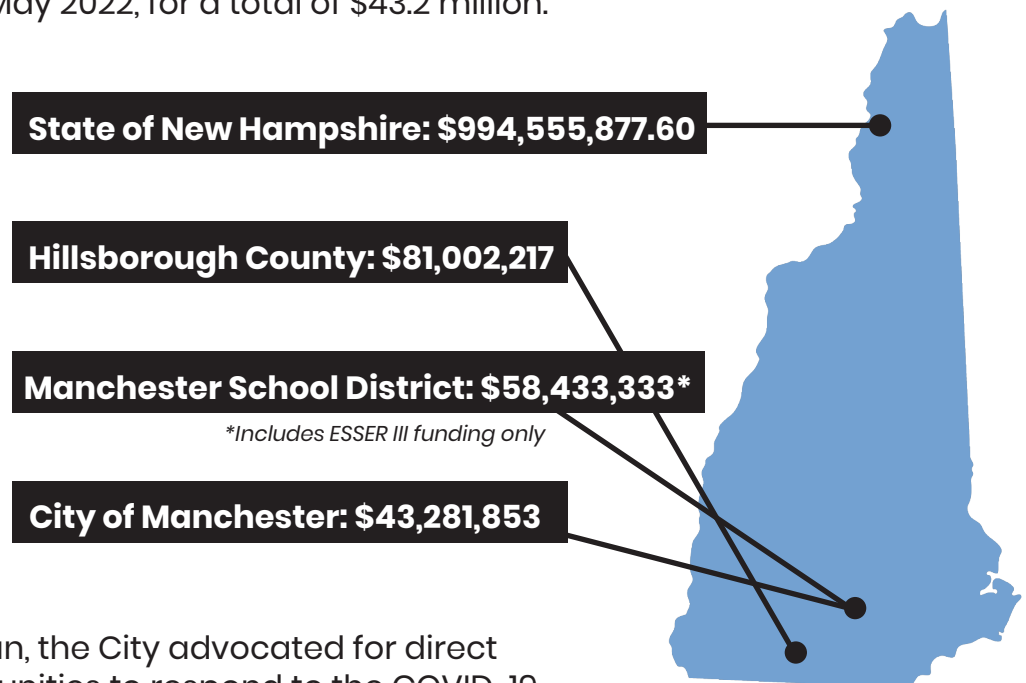


Table of Contents

- 3** New Hampshire Overview
- 4** Survey Results
- 5** General Overview
- 6** City of Manchester Funding Recommendations
- 7** Funding Recommendations: Services to Impacted Communities
- 9** Funding Recommendations: Addressing Negative Economic Impacts
- 10** Funding Recommendations: Public Health
- 10** Funding Recommendations: Infrastructure
- 11** Funding Recommendations: Public Sector Revenue Replacement
- 11** Funding Recommendations: Administrative
- 12** Funding Breakdown: 2021-2026
- 13** Appendix A
- 14** Appendix B

American Rescue Plan Funding: New Hampshire Overview

The City of Manchester received \$21.6 million from the American Rescue Plan, and is expected to receive the remaining \$21.6 million in May 2022, for a total of \$43.2 million.



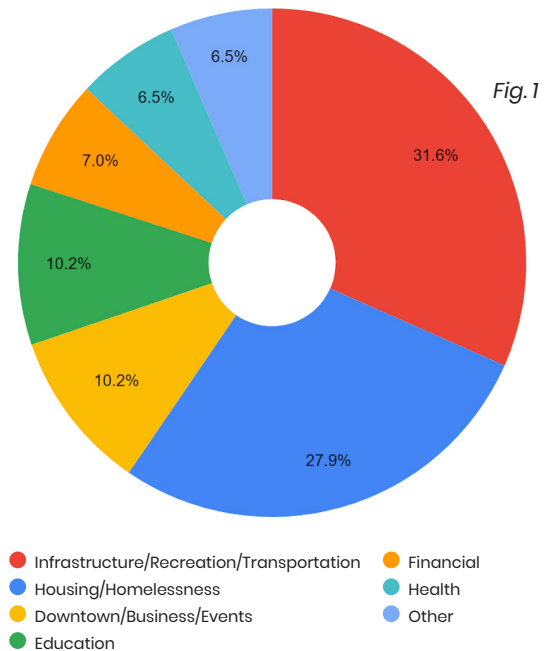
When the pandemic began, the City advocated for direct assistance to local communities to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. After nearly a year of advocacy, the federal government passed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which included \$43,281,853 allocated directly to the City of Manchester. Once ARPA passed, the Office of the Mayor put out a survey to Manchester residents asking for feedback on how they wanted these funds to be allocated. Residents responded with a wide variety of creative ideas, and many had similar themes. These responses were sorted by theme to better understand the priorities of Manchester residents (see page 4).

When the US Department of Treasury released their Interim Final Rule on May 10, 2021 outlining eligible uses for the ARPA funds, we did extensive research and engaged both community partners and City departments. We worked with these leaders to determine how to turn ideas into evidence-based programs that will positively impact our community, while remaining within the strict parameters of the extensive guidelines.

The programs and positions presented here have been brought forward after weighing community input and undergoing extensive consultation with department heads and community partners. The majority of the programs and positions are funded through December 2026. Throughout the five years of funding, we will collect data and measure program effectiveness to ensure this funding not only addresses the negative impacts COVID-19 had on our community, but helps shape a strong and equitable recovery for the City of Manchester.

American Rescue Plan: Survey Results

In anticipation of American Rescue Plan funding, the Office of the Mayor put out a survey to gather community feedback. The survey was active from March 18th to May 6th, 2021, and the City received 159 responses. The responses were then sorted into common categories as shown in Fig 1.



What did the community say?

“Address homelessness and increase affordable housing for low and middle income.”

See Director of Homelessness Initiatives, page 8 and Affordable Housing Trust, page 8

“[...] there should be street lamps installed on corners that do not currently have them. I believe the focus should be on parts of the city that are higher in crime. Bright, well lit streets will not only reduce crime, but traffic accidents as well and would make our city more walkable.”

See Community Health & Violent Crime Reduction Programs page 7

“Increase access to fresh foods for underserved community members in fresh food deserts.”

See Manchester Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Initiatives, page 7

“I would highly recommend that the roads are repaved.”

See 2021 Revenue Replacement – Roads & Sidewalks (CIP) page 11

“Small business ‘beautification’ grants. Around the city there are so many family owned small businesses, from restaurants to laundromats to car repair. [...] We could create a program to fund small business beautification—a new coat of paint, a new sign, new windows, etc.—whatever they need to look their best.”

See Small Business Grants & Program Assistance, page 9

“I would highly recommend job training programs for jobs that are needed such as construction, electricians, plumbers, etc. there is plenty of work out there at all levels... there are very few people with the skills to do the work.”

See Job Resource Coaching & Higher Education Partnership, page 9

“Get downtown active again and bring back the arts. It’s very important to the community.”

See Community Event & Activation Grants, page 9

ARPA Funding Guidance:

General Overview

The US Department of the Treasury broke funding requirements into seven categories, as listed below. All funds used must fall into one of these specific definitions.

What CAN the funding be spent on?

- **Public Health:** Supporting public health expenditures, by, for example, funding COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and certain public health and safety staff.
- **Addressing Negative Economic Impacts:** Addressing negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency, including economic harms to workers, households, small businesses, impacted industries, and the public sector.
- **Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities:** Addressing economic disparities that existed prior to and were amplified by the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- **Public Sector Revenue Replacement:** Replacing lost public sector revenue, and allowing cities to use this funding to provide government services outside the stated guidelines.
- **Premium Pay:** Providing premium pay for essential workers, offering additional support to those who have and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors.
- **Infrastructure:** Investing in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure, making necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, support wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and to expand access to broadband internet.
- **Administrative:** Covering administrative costs associated with COVID-19 public health emergency assistance programs.

What CAN'T the funding be spent on?

- **Pension Costs:** Recipients may not deposit funds into a pension fund.
- **Offset Reduction in Net Tax Revenue:** Recipients that are states or territories may not use funds to offset a reduction in net tax revenue caused by the recipient's change in law, regulation, or administrative interpretation.
- **Non-Federal Match:** Recipients may not use funds as non-federal match where prohibited.
- **Rainy Day Funds:** Recipients generally may not use funds directly to service debt, satisfy a judgment or settlement, or contribute to a "rainy day" fund.
- **General Infrastructure (unless specified):** A general infrastructure project, like paving roads and bridges, is not a permissible use of ARPA funds, unless the project responded to a specific pandemic public health need, such as ventilation improvements, or a specific negative economic impact, such as affordable housing.

City of Manchester Funding Recommendations

The City of Manchester focused ARPA funding recommendations on 7 key areas, in no particular order:

- Affordable Housing & Homelessness
- Economy, Businesses & Events
- Infrastructure, Recreation & Transportation
- Public Safety
- Health
- Youth
- Seniors

Many of the recommended programs focus on multiple categories.



Funding Recommendations:

Services to Impacted Communities

- ● **Community Health & Violent Crime Reduction Programs:** This initiative funds an evidenced-based community centered public health and public safety partnership to increase overall health outcomes and reduce violent crime within the City, particularly in low-income neighborhoods.

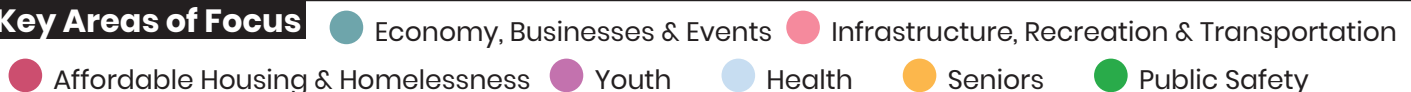
This program funds thirteen Community Health Workers (CHWs), who will work with MPD to take over check condition calls typically taken by officers and act as a hub for addressing neighborhood-level health concerns. Evidence shows that less than 10% of check condition calls require any kind of police response. This partnership will reduce the number of unnecessary calls taken by police, and provide the proper level of care for residents seeking intervention or services. These CHWs will be ward-based, with an additional worker dedicated to assisting seniors.

It also supports the Highway Department's effort to address environmental issues, primarily in neighborhoods that experience chronic violent crime, through things like street sweepers, increased trash collection, additional street lights and trimming overgrown vegetation. It also funds park rangers to increase community active living by making our parks safer, cleaner, and more accessible through additional community programming and enforcement of our existing regulations, and extends the hours of the DPW DART team to respond to quality of life and neighborhood cleanliness needs.

Additionally, the programs fund investigative overtime and foot patrols for MPD to address violent crime, and funds the successful ACERT program.
\$13,581,547.56 (Funded through December 2026)

- ● **Manchester Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Initiative:** This program funds the Healthy Corner Stores Project to increase the ability of local corner stores to offer healthy options (especially in food desert areas), and conduct a food access strategic planning process to identify priority actions for implementation, as well as establish a healthy food access fund to invest in the identified priority areas.
\$1,043,351.66 (Funded through December 2026)

Key Areas of Focus



Funding Recommendations:

Services to Impacted Communities

- ● **Affordable Housing Trust Fund:** Makes investments in the existing Affordable Housing Trust Fund, to increase access to safe affordable housing. These funds can be made available to organizations to develop new affordable, transitional, and supportive non-congregate housing projects, as well as provide grants for individuals to apply for assistance in order to stay in their homes as they age, grants for emergency home repairs for low income individuals, grants for landlords to make improvements to their properties if their properties remain affordable for a prearranged time, make their units eligible for the Housing Choice Voucher Program, and other eligible uses to increase the amount of affordable housing within the City.
\$3,000,000.00 (Funded through December 2026)
- ● **Newborn Home Visit Program:** This funding will continue Ready Set LAUNCH, a universal home visit program for new mothers with the aim of reducing child maltreatment. Home visit programs have been shown to promote effective parenting and healthy family functioning. This is the continuation of an existing program whose funding is ending in September 2021.
\$1,073,839.20 (Funded from January 2022 through December 2026)
- ● **Director of Homelessness Initiatives:** The economic impacts of COVID-19 have increased housing insecurity. This funding will be used to continue funding the Director of Homelessness Initiatives position through 2026 to continue to guide the City of Manchester's response to homelessness issues.
\$710,847.36 (Funded from August 2022 through December 2026)



Key Areas of Focus

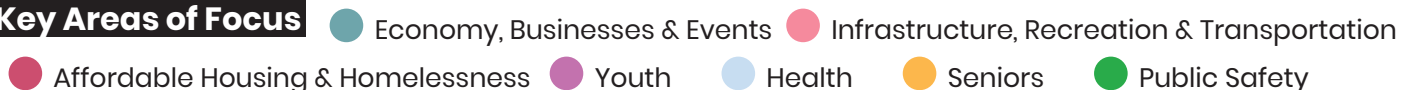
- Economy, Businesses & Events
- Infrastructure, Recreation & Transportation
- Affordable Housing & Homelessness
- Youth
- Health
- Seniors
- Public Safety

Funding Recommendations:

Addressing Negative Economic Impacts

- ● **Job Resource Coaching & Higher Education Partnership:** In partnership with Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU), this initiative would provide significant scholarships to eligible graduates of Manchester Public High Schools to attend SNHU. Leveraging partnership with New Hampshire businesses and the trades, these scholarships would focus on project-based learning, technical assistance and job training centered on industries located in Manchester, including healthcare, engineering, technology, education, finance and more. By expanding access to higher education and investing in our future workforce, this initiative will set up foundations to fill local jobs and encourage students to stay and work in our community.
\$3,000,000.00 (*Funded through December 2026*)
- ● **Small Business Grants & Program Assistance:** An extension and expansion of the successful program funded with CDBG-CV funding, this program would widen the eligibility and uses for small business grants to not only cover demonstrated losses due to COVID-19, but improvements to outdoor spaces and additional support for business planning and technical assistance.
\$2,000,000.00 (*Funded through December 2026*)
- **City of Manchester Economic Development:** In order to support our business community through this economic recovery and to bring City staffing up to pre-pandemic levels, this item funds an Economic Development Director and a Business Liaison within the Manchester Economic Development Office. Additionally, it funds an update and modernization of Manchester's branding strategy, to better support the Manchester-Boston Regional Airport and our local hospitality and tourism industries that have been heavily impacted by COVID-19.
\$3,334,286.26 (*Funded through December 2026*)
- ● **Community Event & Activation Grants:** This grant opportunity allows for the community to identify the areas of their lives and/or neighborhoods that were most impacted by COVID-19, and partner with the City of Manchester to create solutions. Organizations, individuals, and neighborhood groups may apply for grant funding from \$1,000 - \$10,000 (depending on the size, scope and impact of the project) for events or physical investments that align with the Treasury guidelines.
\$1,000,000.00 (*Funded through December 2026*)

Key Areas of Focus



Funding Recommendations:

Public Health

- ● **Waiving Online Service Fees:** For one year, waives city online services fees to reduce the number of individuals inside City Hall as a COVID-19 mitigation tool.
\$1,000,000.00 (Funded from July 2021 through June 2022)
- **City Building Ventilation Upgrades:** Performs necessary ventilation upgrades to City Hall and the Rines Center.
\$1,077,499.00
- ● **Emergency Management Coordinator:** This extends the funding for this critically necessary existing position through December 2026.
\$601,518.80 (Funded through December 2026)

Funding Recommendations:

Infrastructure

- ● **Water and Sewer Infrastructure Projects:** Funds priority DPW and EPD projects, including eligible stormwater drainage and other water quality projects and associated infrastructure improvements.
\$5,000,000.00 (Funded through December 2026)



Key Areas of Focus

- Economy, Businesses & Events
- Infrastructure, Recreation & Transportation
- Affordable Housing & Homelessness
- Youth
- Health
- Seniors
- Public Safety

Funding Recommendations:

Public Sector Revenue Replacement

2021 Revenue Replacement (Budget): Funds used within the FY22 budget to make up for lost revenue.

\$937,000.00

- ● **2021 Revenue Replacement – Roads & Sidewalks (CIP):** The remaining lost revenue to be used for additional road and sidewalk improvements.

\$1,000,000.00

Funding Recommendations:

Administrative

Additional Planning Admin Costs: In order to comply with quarterly reporting requirements associated with ARPA funds and assist in the administering of various programs associated with these funds, such as the Affordable Housing Trust fund and Community Event & Activation Grants, we have allocated funding for two additional Planner II positions.

\$1,250,262.38 (*Funded through December 2026*)

Additional future expenses/revenue replacement through 2024:

\$3,671,700.78



Key Areas of Focus

- Economy, Businesses & Events
- Infrastructure, Recreation & Transportation
- Affordable Housing & Homelessness
- Youth
- Health
- Seniors
- Public Safety

Funding Breakdown: 2021-2026

	2021 (Aug - Dec)	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total Estimated Cost
Services to Impacted Communities							
Community Health & Violent Crime Reduction Programs	\$1,264,887.30	\$2,447,275.09	\$2,449,722.63	\$2,468,691.69	\$2,473,176.11	\$2,477,794.74	\$13,581,547.56
Manchester Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Initiative	\$96,916.66	\$199,287.00	\$199,287.00	\$199,287.00	\$199,287.00	\$149,287.00	\$1,043,351.66
Affordable Housing Trust Fund	\$3,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000,000.00
Newborn Home Visit Program	\$0.00	\$206,963.18	\$205,533.87	\$215,369.07	\$222,986.54	\$222,986.54	\$1,073,839.20
Director of Homelessness Initiatives	\$0.00	\$53,468.23	\$158,321.15	\$160,950.18	\$165,481.30	\$172,626.50	\$710,847.36
Addressing Negative Economic Impacts							
Job Resource Coaching & Higher Education Partnership	\$230,769.23	\$553,846.15	\$553,846.15	\$553,846.15	\$553,846.15	\$553,846.15	\$3,000,000.00
Small Business Grants & Program Assistance	\$153,846.15	\$369,230.77	\$369,230.77	\$369,230.77	\$369,230.77	\$369,230.77	\$2,000,000.00
City of Manchester Economic Development	\$252,076.57	\$606,868.35	\$611,448.02	\$616,164.94	\$621,022.94	\$626,705.44	\$3,334,286.26
Community Event and Activation Grants	\$76,923.05	\$184,615.39	\$184,615.39	\$184,615.39	\$184,615.39	\$184,615.39	\$1,000,000.00
Public Health							
Waving Online Service Fees	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000,000.00
City Building Ventilation Upgrades	\$1,077,499.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,077,499.00
Emergency Management Coordinator	\$44,325.42	\$107,222.67	\$109,268.08	\$111,375.33	\$113,546.00	\$115,781.30	\$601,518.80
Infrastructure							
Water & Sewer Infrastructure Projects	\$384,615.39	\$923,076.92	\$923,076.92	\$923,076.92	\$923,076.92	\$923,076.92	\$5,000,000.00
Public Sector Revenue Replacement							
2021 Revenue Replacement (Budget)	\$937,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$937,000.00
2021 Revenue Replacement - Roads & Sidewalks (CIP)	\$1,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000,000.00
Administrative							
Additional Planning Admin Costs	\$95,695.06	\$229,668.14	\$229,668.14	\$229,668.14	\$231,499.50	\$234,063.40	\$1,250,262.38
Additional future expenses/revenue replacement through 2024				\$3,671,700.78			\$3,671,700.78
	\$9,114,553.83	\$6,381,521.90	\$5,994,018.13	\$9,703,976.37	\$6,057,768.62	\$6,030,014.16	\$43,281,853.00

Appendix A

Interim Final Rule Program and Service Justification and Compliance

To assess whether a program or service is included in this category of eligible uses, a recipient should consider whether and how the use would respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Assessing whether a program or service “responds to” the COVID-19 public health emergency requires the recipient to, first, **identify a need or negative impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency and, second, identify how the program, service, or other intervention addresses the identified need or impact.** While the COVID-19 public health emergency affected many aspects of American life, eligible uses under this category must be in response to the disease itself or the harmful consequences of the economic disruptions resulting from or exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

The Interim Final Rule implements these provisions by identifying a non-exclusive list of programs or services that may be funded as responding to COVID-19 or the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency, along with considerations for evaluating other potential uses of the Fiscal Recovery Funds not explicitly listed. The Interim Final Rule also provides flexibility for recipients to use payments from the Fiscal Recovery Funds for programs or services that are not identified on these non-exclusive lists but that fall under the terms of the legislation by responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency or its negative economic impacts. As an example, in determining whether a program or service responds to the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency, the Interim Final Rule provides that payments from the Fiscal Recovery Funds should be designed to address an economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency. **Recipients should assess the connection between the negative economic harm and the COVID-19 public health emergency, the nature and extent of that harm, and how the use of this funding would address such harm.**

As discussed, the pandemic and the necessary actions taken to control the spread had a severe impact on households and small businesses, including in particular low-income workers and communities and people of color. While eligible uses under the legislation provide flexibility to recipients to identify the most pressing local needs, Treasury encourages recipients to provide assistance to those households, businesses, and nonprofits in communities most disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

There are several guiding principles for developing your own effective compliance regimes:

- Recipients and subrecipients are the first line of defense, and responsible for ensuring the SLFRF award funds are not used for ineligible purposes, and there is no fraud, waste, and abuse associated with their SLFRF award;
- Many SLFRF-funded projects respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency and meet urgent community needs. Swift and effective implementation is vital, and recipients must balance facilitating simple and rapid program access widely across the community and maintaining a robust documentation and compliance regime;
- SLFRF-funded projects should advance shared interests and promote equitable delivery of government benefits and opportunities to underserved communities, as outlined in Executive Order 13985, On Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government; and
- Transparency and public accountability for SLFRF award funds and use of such funds are critical to upholding program integrity and trust in all levels of government, and SLFRF award funds should be managed consistent with Administration guidance.

Appendix B

The Expenditure Categories listed below must be used to categorize each project. The term “Expenditure Category” refers to the detailed level, and when referred to as a category it includes all Expenditure Categories within that level.

1: Public Health

- 1.1 COVID-19 Vaccination
- 1.2 COVID-19 Testing
- 1.3 COVID-19 Contact Tracing
- 1.4 Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, etc.)
- 1.5 Personal Protective Equipment
- 1.6 Medical Expenses (including Alternative Care Facilities)
- 1.7 Capital Investments or Physical Plant Changes to Public Facilities that respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency
- 1.8 Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)
- 1.9 Payroll Costs for Public Health, Safety, and Other Public Sector Staff Responding to COVID-19
- 1.10 Mental Health Services
- 1.11 Substance Use Services
- 1.12 Other Public Health Services

2: Negative Economic Impacts

- 2.1 Household Assistance: Food Programs
- 2.2 Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, & Utility Aid
- 2.3 Household Assistance: Cash Transfers
- 2.4 Household Assistance: Internet Access Programs
- 2.5 Household Assistance: Eviction Prevention
- 2.6 Unemployment Benefits or Cash Assistance to Unemployed Workers
- 2.7 Job Training Assistance (e.g., Sectoral job-training, Subsidized Employment, Employment Supports or Incentives)
- 2.8 Contributions to UI Trust Funds
- 2.9 Small Business Economic Assistance (General)
- 2.10 Aid to Nonprofit Organizations
- 2.11 Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality
- 2.12 Aid to Other Impacted Industries
- 2.13 Other Economic Support
- 2.14 Rehiring Public Sector Staff

3: Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

- 3.1 Education Assistance: Early Learning
- 3.2 Education Assistance: Aid to High-Poverty Districts
- 3.3 Education Assistance: Academic Services
- 3.4 Education Assistance: Social, Emotional, & Mental Health Services
- 3.5 Education Assistance: Other
- 3.6 Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care
- 3.7 Healthy Childhood Environments: Home Visiting

- 3.8 Healthy Childhood Environments: Services to Foster Youth or Families Involved in Child Welfare System
- 3.9 Healthy Childhood Environments: Other
- 3.10 Housing Support: Affordable Housing
- 3.11 Housing Support: Services for Unhoused Persons
- 3.12 Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance
- 3.13 Social Determinants of Health: Other
- 3.14 Social Determinants of Health: Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigators
- 3.15 Social Determinants of Health: Lead Remediation
- 3.16 Social Determinants of Health: Community Violence Interventions

4: Premium Pay

- 4.1 Public Sector Employees
- 4.2 Private Sector: Grants to Other Employers

5: Infrastructure

- 5.1 Clean Water: Centralized Wastewater Treatment
- 5.2 Clean Water: Centralized Wastewater Collection and Conveyance
- 5.3 Clean Water: Decentralized Wastewater
- 5.4 Clean Water: Combined Sewer Overflows
- 5.5 Clean Water: Other Sewer Infrastructure
- 5.6 Clean Water: Stormwater
- 5.7 Clean Water: Energy Conservation
- 5.8 Clean Water: Water Conservation
- 5.9 Clean Water: Nonpoint Source
- 5.10 Drinking water: Treatment
- 5.11 Drinking water: Transmission & Distribution
- 5.12 Drinking water: Transmission & Distribution: Lead Remediation
- 5.13 Drinking water: Source
- 5.14 Drinking water: Storage
- 5.15 Drinking water: Other water infrastructure
- 5.16 Broadband: “Last Mile” projects
- 5.17 Broadband: Other projects

6: Revenue Replacement

- 6.1 Provision of Government Services

7: Administrative

- 7.1 Administrative Expenses
- 7.2 Evaluation and Data Analysis
- 7.3 Transfers to Other Units of Government
- 7.4 Transfers to Non-entitlement Units (States and territories only)